

Request for Proposal  
One year Coordinator  
Iowa State School Support Team  
Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Submitted by:  
Iowa Department of Education  
Teaching and Learning Services Bureau

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Deadline

RFP responses must be submitted in writing prior to the RFP closing date of May 1, 2009 at 4:30 pm.

Overview

On January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as “No Child Left Behind of 2001” (NCLB). This legislation requires that “each state shall establish a statewide system of intensive and sustained support and improvement.” Responsibilities to Title I schools and districts include providing technical assistance to schools identified as low performing, with priority given to schools and districts subject to corrective action and school improvement.

The Iowa Support System for Schools and Districts in Need of Assistance (SINA and DINA) has been developed in response to state and federal legislation described above. Within three months following identification by the Iowa Department of Education, No Child Left Behind requires that a School in Need of Assistance develop a two-year plan that:

- addresses core academic subjects;
- utilizes scientifically researched strategies;
- implements new teacher mentoring;
- includes parent involvement activities; and
- provides for a peer review of school plan.

#### Terms

*Department* means the Iowa Department of Education

*Iowa Support System* refers to the Iowa Support System for Schools and Districts in Need of Assistance

*Iowa Support Team* means the group of individuals organized by the Department to assist schools and districts in need of assistance

*SINA and DINA* refers to Schools and Districts in Need of Assistance

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Iowa Support System for Schools and Districts in Need of Assistance (SINA and DINA) is to assist the districts'/schools' achievement of the following:

- Educate all students to high standards;
  - Strengthen the internal capacity of each district and school;
  - Focus accountability on results; and
- Integrate quality educational practices with local decision making

#### Scope of Work

The Department is seeking a vendor to provide research-based training on school improvement to the Iowa Support Team, school administrators, and teachers. This service includes coordinating the school improvement efforts of the Iowa Support Team working with Title I schools and district identified by the Department as in need of assistance under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and specifically includes implementing the five phase review process of the Iowa Support System: Audit Phase, Diagnosis Phase, Design Phase, Implementation/Monitoring Phase, and Monitoring/Assessment Phase.

The service also includes training the newly hired Title I School Improvement Consultant to lead the Iowa Support Team and the processes of the Iowa Support System for the 2010-2011 school year. The individual must have had prior experience in leading school improvement efforts including working with high poverty schools, high risk populations, and conducting program evaluations.

#### Vendor Qualifications

The vendor must have a working knowledge of Iowa's K-12 education system and documented prior experience in coordinating school improvement efforts in Iowa schools and districts. The vendor must be located within a 225 mile radius of Des Moines, Iowa, to facilitate communication with the Department and the Iowa Support Team. The vendor must demonstrate experience with assisting schools with high risk populations, such as, low-income, English Language Learners (ELL), and minority students as well as in increasing parent involvement in Title I schools and conducting an evaluations. The vendor must have had prior experience in leading school improvement efforts including working with high poverty schools, high risk populations, and conducting program evaluations.

The vendor must be able to assure that the individual(s) providing the service has experience in leading school improvement efforts in Iowa schools, is knowledgeable of recent research in school improvement and the federal regulations impacting SINA and DINA, and experienced in curriculum design and program improvement. Additionally, the vendor will need to verify that the individual(s) providing the service is experienced in working with Title I schools and districts in Iowa and is knowledgeable about the Iowa Support System model and processes.

#### Requirements

In addition to providing the service, the successful vendor will submit monthly progress reports detailing school improvement efforts in Iowa including activities, meetings, training opportunities conducted, SINA/DINA website updates, and number of hours worked to date.